



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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Serving California's 5th District

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Reps. Matsui and Thompson Announce \$400,000 Grant for Tower Bridge *Soon local residents will find less congestion on popular walkway to River Cats games, Historic Old Town*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressmen Robert T. Matsui and Mike Thompson delivered good news to Sacramentans today, announcing a \$400,000 Department of Transportation (DoT) grant for Tower Bridge. The funding, part of the DoT's Innovative Bridge Research and Construction Program will go directly towards improvements on the pedestrian walkway on Tower Bridge, with special attention given to maintaining the historical integrity of the structure. To comply with these standards, the portion of the widening on the lift span will use fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) composite panels to ensure the expansion does not increase the lift load on the existing mechanical system.

Constructed in 1936, and designed to link the Old Sacramento River bank to West Sacramento, the Tower Bridge has become an important historical landmark in Sacramento. However, the bridge's current pedestrian and bicycle facilities are inadequate and do not meet the existing demands of bridge traffic. Widening the pedestrian access will alleviate congestion along the primary link between the Capitol Mall, Old Sacramento, the Riverfront Promenade and Raley Field as well as River Walk Park on the west side of the river. The improvements have been designed to enable this historic structure to accommodate the changing needs of the area in a manner that is sensitive to the historic aspects of the bridge.

"It is great to have federal support for this vitally important local project," said Representative Robert T. Matsui. **"The materials used in this expansion will help ensure that any modifications to Tower Bridge will not change its unique historical architecture. I am pleased to announce this funding and look forward to the day when we can walk over to a River Cats game on the newly-expanded walkway."**

"The Tower Bridge walkway improvements are a central element in shaping a vibrant riverfront and a walkable community," said Congressman Mike Thompson. **"By serving more pedestrians and bicyclists, today's technology makes it possible to recapture the spirit of Sacramento's historic and people-friendly riverfront."**

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